

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph on page 8 lines 31-32 as follows:

FIG 6 presents the results from microarray analysis comparison of amplified cDNA and direct 1st strand cDNA labeling. Comparison of expression levels using signal strengths obtained using labeled material from Skeletal Muscle tissue with a CyScribe first strand cDNA kit (Amersham Biosciences) or labeled material obtained after cDNA synthesis, circularization, amplification, restriction digest and in vitro transcription (as described). The plot shows the normalized signal ratios for 600 spots. These data indicate that gene expression information is accurately maintained using the described amplification procedure.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9 lines 1-2 as follows:

FIG 7 presents the results of quantitative PCR analysis of beta actin cDNA levels in unamplified and amplified cDNA samples. Beta actin gene specific primers were used to perform real-time quantitative PCR from either 1st strand cDNA, double stranded cDNA or double stranded cDNA which has been circularized and then amplified using random primers and Phi29 DNA polymerase based rolling circle amplification as described. Ct values were determined for each sample in a serial 10x dilution series. The similar Ct values for each amount of input nucleic acid sample suggests that the beta actin transcript concentration relative to the entire sample is accurately maintained throughout the procedure.